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PERS. Stoltzfus, Eugene  
Oct 1: International Voluntary Services

## TEACHER TELLS OF DOUBTS

## Viet Nam Volunteer Returns

By JOHN SIMONDS  
Star Staff Writer

After two years of volunteer work in Viet Nam, Eugene Stoltzfus has doubts about that country's future, but he wants to go back there to work on it.

"It may be that a totalitarian form of government is what the people of Viet Nam need," Stoltzfus suggested. "I don't know, but whatever it is, it will be Vietnamese. It will be a Vietnamese solution to the problem, not an American one."

Stoltzfus, 25, of Aurora, Ohio, completed a two-year tour as a teacher in Viet Nam for the International Voluntary Services (IVS) a few weeks ago. He returned here this week to talk with officials of the organization at its headquarters on the fourth floor at 1555 Connecticut Ave. N.W.

"I think the fighting will be resolved some day, but probably it will be some kind of neutral solution, and I think a great deal of anti-American feeling may result. I've seen some signs of this among the people already," he said in an interview.

## Want to Learn English

He said the Vietnamese are anxious to learn English. This is a resource Americans in that country all have and should put to greater use, he said, but often "the number of Americans over there who care about the Vietnamese people is not great."

Stoltzfus was not completely critical. He praised the efforts of American soldiers and especially members of the Special Forces units in dealing with the people of the country.

"I found many of our officers to be very serious and concerned about the people," he said. "I'm a pacifist, but whenever I found out about a movement of Viet Cong, I passed it along to the American officers in the province. I tried to work with them as a member of a team."



EUGENE STOLTZFUS

Three years ago the IVS had 76 people working in Viet Nam. Today it has only 37.

"It's just plain hard to get people to go there," explained Arthur Z. Gardiner, IVS' new executive director. The organization also has 57 workers in Laos and 27 in Algeria, and Gardiner has begun a recruiting program in American colleges to get about 400 more.

## Preceded Peace Corps

"We only operate in those countries where the Peace Corps doesn't want to go," Gardiner explained, "but if you

want to go to Southeast Asia, we can send you there."

IVS started in 1953, eight years before the Peace Corps, and Gardiner said that Peace Corps officials got some of their ideas by watching IVS in action. IVS calls itself a private organization, but the Agency for International Development pays the \$80-a-month salaries for volunteers and some of the other expenses of the operation.

Stoltzfus, a graduate of Goshen College in Goshen, Ind., was studying to be a Mennonite

preacher at Goshen when he decided to join the voluntary services. He had almost no experience teaching and didn't even know how to say "chao ong" (Vietnamese for hello), but IVS shipped him off to teach the Vietnamese.

## Hamlet Education

Most of his work involved teaching Vietnamese adults with some education to teach elementary school children how to read, write and work with numbers. He also taught high school classes in English. It was part of the South Vietnamese government's Hamlet Education Program, and he helped to prepare thousands of teachers in schools near Xuan Loc, 50 miles north of Saigon, and Na Trang, 250 miles east of Saigon.

One reason Stoltzfus is meeting IVS officials this week is to talk about his plans to return to Viet Nam as a team leader. Team leaders supervise 10 or 15 volunteers in the education, farming and health work and make about \$3,500 a year.

"There needs to be an awful lot of conversation between the people of the East and West," Stoltzfus said. "That's one reason why the people there are so anxious to learn English, if we could only get more Americans to teach them."